



DIRECTORATE OF
OPERATIONS

STATE/INR NMCC/MC (DIA) CIA/NMCC NIC NSA DIA/NSC 500 1000 CRS

ROUTINE

PAGE 1 OF 4 PAGES

NSC/S NIO

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

~~SECRET~~

DIST 18 APRIL 1974

1.5 (c)

1. ~~COMMENT: SANTIAGO EMBASSY TELEGRAM 2005 OF 16 APRIL~~

(16 APRIL 1974) REPORTED THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY: THE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN THAT GOVERNMENT INTELLIGENCE SERVICES LEARNED ON 11 APRIL OF A LEFTIST THREAT TO THE LIFE OF CARDINAL RAUL SILVA ARCHBISHOP OF SANTIAGO AND THAT A POLICE ESCORT HAD BEEN ASSIGNED TO PROTECT HIM. (SEE ALSO SANTIAGO EMBASSY TELEGRAM 2005 OF 16 APRIL FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON THE THREAT.)

2. INFORMATION ON THE PLOT TO ASSASSINATE CARDINAL SILVA CAME FROM A SUSPECT CHILEAN

1.5 (c)

A COMMANDO UNIT COMPOSED OF MEMBERS OF THE

~~SECRET~~

2766-167-4

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE JUN 11 PM

JUN 11 1999

125

~~SECRET~~

(Classification)

(Classify controls)

HOVE&NT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR) HAD ENTERED CHILE FROM 1.5(c)
ARGENTINA SOME DAYS EARLIER. [REDACTED] THE
COMMANDO UNIT CARRIED WEAPONS AND HAD ACCESS TO CHILEAN ARMY
UNIFORMS. THEIR MISSION WAS TO ASSASSINATE CARDINAL SILVA DURING
ONE OF HIS PUBLIC APPEARANCES DURING HOLY WEEK (8-13 APRIL) AND TO
ESCAPE IN THE ENSUING CONFUSION. THEY HOPED THAT THE KILLING WOULD
BE BLAMED ON ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS IN THE CHILEAN ARMED FORCES,
AND SO DISCREDIT THE MILITARY JUNTA,

3. [REDACTED] DUBIOUS ABOUT THIS INFORMATION.
FEELING THAT THE SUSPECT KAY HAVE FABRICATED THE ENTIRE STORY.

[REDACTED] CONCERNED OVER RECENT EUROPEAN PRESS STORIES
REPORTING DETERIORATING RELATIONS BETWEEN CARDINAL SILVA AND THE
JUNTA, AND BELIEVED THAT THE STORIES MIGHT BE SETTING THE STAGE
FOR A STRONG PUBLIC REACTION TO A POSSIBLE ASSASSINATION OF THE
CARDINAL. ALSO, THEY HAD RECEIVED REPORTS OF MEN IN ARMY UNIFORM
CIRCULATING IN SANTIAGO IN A VEHICLE WITH A CHALKED MAKESHIFT
"ARMY OF CHILE" LABEL, WHICH AROUSED THEIR SUSPICIONS.

4. IN LIGHT OF THIS CONCERN, [REDACTED]
HAS SENT TO INFORM THE CARDINAL OF THIS INFORMATION AND TO ARRANGE
FOR HIS PROTECTION [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED]

S E C R E T

SECRET

(classif/origin)

(classif controls)

CARDINAL SILVA TOLD [REDACTED] HE DID NOT THINK THE INFORMATION HAS TRUE, AND ADDED THAT HE DID NOT WISH PROTECTION. THE CARDINAL WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE HAD RECEIVED MANY ACCOUNTS OF TORTURES, ILLEGAL ARRESTS, EXECUTIONS, AND OTHER ABUSES BY DINA AND OTHER CHILEAN MILITARY SERVICES, AND EXHORTED [REDACTED] TO PUT AN END TO THESE PRACTICES. AS A RESULT OF THIS CONVERSATION, [REDACTED] CONCLUDED THAT CARDINAL SILVA IS BEING STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY ANTI-JUNTA ELEMENTS.

5. DESPITE SILVA'S PROTESTS, [REDACTED] PROVIDED [REDACTED] PROTECTION TO CARDINAL SILVA ON 12, 13, AND 14 APRIL, WITH THE AUTHORIZATION OF GENERAL AUGUSTO PINOCHET, PRESIDENT OF THE JUNTA. THERE IS NOW SOME SUSPICION [REDACTED] THAT LEFTISTS MIGHT ATTEMPT TO KIDNAP CARDINAL SILVA AS AN EMBARRASSMENT TO THE JUNTA, AND THAT SILVA MIGHT EVEN END HIMSELF TO SUCH A SCHEME.

-CONSIDERING ROUND THE CLOCK [REDACTED] PROTECTION FOR THE CARDINAL.

6. [REDACTED] CONCERNED OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF A KIDNAP ATTEMPT AGAINST SILVA, PINOCHET STRONGLY

SECRET

1.5 (c)

SECRET

(Classification)

(Declassify controls)

DES I RES TO LIVE UP TO THE JUNTA'S STATED POLICY OF NOT MAKING ANY DEALS WITH TERRORISTS IN SUCH CASES AND HAS SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL EXECUTE AS MANY AS FIFTY LEFTIST PRISONERS IN RETALIATION FOR THE MURDER OF ANY KIDNAP VICTIM. HOWEVER, PINOCHET BELIEVES THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THIS POLICY IF CARDINAL SILVA BECAME A KIDNAP VICTIM. IN SUCH A CASE, THE JUNTA WOULD HAVE TO ACCEDE TO AT LEAST SOME of THE KIDNAPPERS' DEMANDS, THUS ESTABLISHING A COSTLY AND DANGEROUS PRECEDENT.

1.5 (c)

SECRET